

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,

PUBLISHED FOR THE PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE NO. 15, CORNER NASSAU AND FULTON STS.

Volume XX. No. 47

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—CINDERELLA—A BOY FOR TRAVEL.

BOWERY THEATRE, Broadway—MONSIEUR QUESTION—OUR GAL—IRISHMAN IN JAPAN—THREE JACK SHEPHERDS OF HOLLERBACK.

BUTLER'S THEATRE, Chambers Street—JOHN JOHNS—WHERE SHALL I GO?—SWEETHEARTS AND WIVES.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway—GAME OF LIFE—O'FLANNAGHAN AND THE FAIRIES.

AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway—DON CATAN DE BARRA—EVILS—ROCKA MEADOWS—THE SUTHERS.

WOOD'S MINSTRELS, Meehan's Hall—473 Broadway.

BUCKLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, 539 Broadway—BONNY MARY'S HUSBAND OPERA HOUSE.

New York, Saturday, February 17, 1855.

The News.

Our Washington despatches are very interesting.

The movements of the government to checkmate the filibusters are minutely detailed.

We have additional news from Cuba which states that Gen. Concha was well acquainted with the designs of the expeditionists, and that he had issued a proclamation commanding that no quarter be shown in case of capture.

President Pierce has approved the resolution conferring the rank of Lieut. General upon General Scott.

A veto of the French Spedition bill has been prepared, and will probably be sent to the House to-day.

We have received the important decision of Mr. McLane, the United States Commissioner, in the affair of the disputed import, export and tonnage duties at Shanghai, alleged to be due and owing by citizens of the United States during the vicarious administration of the Custom House at that port by the American and English Consuls, and which extended from the 7th of September, 1853, to the 12th of July, 1854.

The amount awarded to the Chinese Superintendent of Customs at Shanghai, by this decision, is \$118,049, nine mace and four candareens, or in round figures about \$236,000.

This amount will have to be collected by the United States Consul from the following houses—Russell & Co.; Smith, King & Co.; Ball, Nye & Co.; Auguste and Heard & Co.; Wetmore & Co.; Hiram Fogg & Co.; Wm. G. Pierce, Frank Foster, and F. D. Williams.

The award was rendered on the 23d of November.

We publish to-day highly interesting letters from our London and Paris correspondents, received by the Asia, with some additional extracts from our European files.

The subjects of the ministerial crisis in England, the management of the War Department, the relative political positions of Austria and Prussia, with the latest report from Sebastopol, are treated at length.

An article from the London Times shows that that journal was disposed to look at the position of the British army in the Crimea in a more cheerful light.

Gen. Paaz, the Venezuelan chief, has offered his services to the British to drill a light cavalry corps on the South American system.

It is stated that the Western Powers have entered into confidential negotiations with Spain for the accession of an auxiliary force of 25,000 men to be sent to the Crimea.

The "consideration" for this service is stated to be the assistance of England and France to protect Spain in the possession of Cuba against any freebooting attack on the part of citizens of the United States.

A statement to the same effect was made previous to the commencement of active hostilities on the Iberian Peninsula at that time to make the arrangement.

The recent news from Cuba, however, renders it highly probable that the "consideration" alluded to has been accepted, and the arrival of a portion of the British West India fleet at Havana confirms the impression.

It will be seen, from a notice in another column, that a meeting of shipping merchants is to be held at the Merchants' Exchange to-day, at 3 o'clock, P. M., to take into consideration the laws regulating the transportation of emigrant passengers.

The present law was passed when nearly, if not quite, all the American packets were two-deckers; but since then they have been built with three decks.

The effect of the present law, rigidly enforced, will be to cause a large majority of them to be seized for violation of law, although actually affording more room and better accommodations to emigrants than were provided for under the law.

It seems that a new law, the present session, was agreed upon jointly by the Secretary of the Treasury, the shipping merchants, and the Committee on Commerce.

The latter reported it unanimously, when it was called up in the Senate.

Mr. Benjamin, of Louisiana, opposed it on the ground that Senator Fish, who had left for the remainder of the session, had left a bill of his own, on the same subject, with a request for him to press that, and to oppose all others.

In the meantime the Secretary of the Treasury declares that unless a new law is passed, he will enforce the old law in the John Cochrane case of it, which, if carried out, may lead to the seizure and withdrawal from service of about one hundred first class merchant vessels.

At the meeting to-day, resolutions will, no doubt, be adopted, urging strongly upon the attention of Congress the necessity of speedy legislation on the subject.

Regret was expressed that Senator Fish should, while unexpectedly withdrawing himself for the remainder of the session, have left the subject thus embarrassed.

The United States Senate yesterday was occupied in the consideration of private bills.

The motion to reconsider the vote laying the bill relative to the private Gen. Armstrong on the table was agreed to, and after some explanation as to the agreement entered into between the friends and opponents of the measure, it was again tabled—24 to 23.

The House at an early hour went into committee on the Mail Steamer Appropriation bill.

After a debate of two days duration, the friends of the bill have triumphed.

The amendment of Mr. Olds, repealing the directions given to the Secretary of the Navy to terminate the additional allowance to the Collins line, was agreed to—36 votes in the affirmative, none counted.

The committee then rose, and without taking the question of concurrence on the amendment the House adjourned.

The steamboat Commodore arrived last night in safety with her passengers from Boston, after being blocked up in the ice off Sands Point since Wednesday forenoon.

We give elsewhere an account of the incidents and sufferings on board.

The Lieutenant Governor of the State, and his coadjutors in the Daily Times, are to appear before the Marine Court this morning to show cause why they should not be committed for a contempt, arising out of a lampoon published in that paper on Thursday.

The Singapore Bi-Monthly Circular of Dec. 25, has come to hand.

The imports of gold and silver dust during the fortnight consisted of 118 bunches from the Archipelago.

The rates reported for Australian are \$20 to \$22 25 for bars, and \$23 to \$25 50 per bunch for dust.

Exports, as above, 1,028 bunches.

The cotton market was more active yesterday, and all grades showed bidding were quite steady, with a tendency to stiffer prices.

Inferior and middle grades were easy to purchase, with further change in prices.

The sales embraced about 3,000 bales, about half of which were in transit.

Flour was steady, without change of moment in prices.

Some purchases were made for export, wheat was quiet.

Corn sold at \$1 for Jersey white.

Pork was some easier, with moderate sales.

Beef was firm.

Within a week cheese has advanced one cent per pound.

pound, and is now held at eleven cents, owing to some speculative movement.

The spirit rappers assembled in full force at the Tabernacle last evening.

We present a graphic report of the sayings and doings, together with the address of ex-Judge Edwards, the first he has delivered in this city since he became a convert to the doctrines of spiritualism.

In the New York Senate yesterday, the bill to prevent encroachments on our harbor passed to a third reading, the section requiring a report respecting certain obstructions on the Brooklyn shore having been struck out.

The Lemon savor case resolution was taken up, when the dispute between Messrs. Brooks and Dickinson, relative to the quarrels of the silver grey and woolly sections of the late whig party, was continued.

We forbear in flitting upon our readers a report of the discussion.

A number of bills of local importance were passed in the Assembly.

The Prohibitory Liquor bill was considered in the afternoon session, but the question to recommit had not been taken when the adjournment took place.

We have received a copy of Mr. Weed's substitute, which prohibits the sale of intoxicating liquors to be drunk on the premises, but permits the sale in quantities not less than five gallons, under certain limitations and restrictions, and punishes intoxication summarily.

As yet we do not perceive that this substitute has received the slightest favor from the ultra temperance party, and, therefore, postpone its publication.

The senseless practice of burning delinquent politicians in effigy has increased since the election of Mr. Seward.

Daniel Ullman was served in this way at Albany yesterday, and Mr. Littlejohn, Speaker of the Assembly, was hung before the court house at Poughkeepsie the night previous.

We publish elsewhere the proceedings yesterday before the Committee on Public Health, of the Council men, the subject under consideration being the expediency of prohibiting the slaughtering of cattle below Fifth Street.

Dr. Downing, City Inspector, appeared, but not only strongly urged the prohibition, but counselled the passage of an ordinance abolishing slaughter houses from the city altogether.

The Doctor made some startling revelations respecting the sale of diseased meat, a practice, it seems, of daily occurrence, and one which, under the present regulations, there is no way of stopping.

He related an instance of "the meat of a cow which he had seized as it was about being sold, which was absolutely putrid, and when the finger pressed against the hind quarters the matter exuded as though from an abscess."

No wonder Dr. Underhill exclaimed, with every indignant cry of disgust, that henceforth he was a convert to vegetarianism.

And yet this sort of stuff is daily sold in the markets and butchers' shops, under the nose of the City Inspector, and he has withheld the facts from the public.

He likewise stated that were the public to know all he was acquainted with in regard to this practice of selling diseased meat they would be astonished.

Why has he not "astonished" the public long ago? We trust Mayor Wood will find it within the scope of his powers to institute an investigation into this matter.

More Cuban Disclosures.—Extent of the Conspiracy.—Policy of the United States and the Western European Powers.

It will be seen from our special correspondence of this morning, from Washington, that the government is adopting active measures to intercept the filibusters, should they attempt to leave our shores, in any suspicious vessel or vessels, for the invasion of Cuba.

At the same time we are informed by our Havana correspondent, that the local government of the island considers the conspiracy there as practically extinguished, through the vigilance and activity of General Concha in detecting the supposed ringleaders; while, for "the security of the future," in ignorance of these late Havana disclosures, our correspondent at London reports the revival of a late important rumor there from Spain.

It is this: that overtures had been made to England and France from the government at Madrid, proffering 15,000 Spanish troops for the service of the allies against Russia, if they will guarantee, first, the protection of Cuba against our filibusters; and secondly, a loan of a million sterling on the condition of the Sardinian loan, for a similar contingent to the Crimea.

Such is the present posture of the question respectively at Havana, Washington, London and Madrid.

The present anti-filibustering activity of our government under the new peace policy of Marcy, is somewhat remarkable.

It is a reaction brought very suddenly about by the terrible anti-slavery working of the Nebraska bill in the late elections.

When Soule set out for Spain, it was amid the cheers and plaudits of the assembled Cuban Junta.

He was their man, and they were to await the upshot of his movements at Madrid.

His antecedents, his instincts, his instructions, and the inclinations of the administration, were all of the filibustering type.

His programme was a rupture with Spain, under cover of which the filibusters were to "let slip the dogs of war."

Soule failed at Madrid. Dudley Mann went over to assist him in concocting a rupture at Ostend; and that experiment was a failure.

Soule returned again to Madrid, for a last and desperate effort there to precipitate a quarrel with the new government.

But the Nebraska bill and the late elections, in the meantime, had created a stampede at Washington; and in the excess of his alarm, Mr. Pierce abandoned the Soule programme, and fled for shelter under the wing of Marcy, and to a milk and water peace policy.

Soule was met at Madrid with instructions to this effect. He read them, pocketed them, turned upon his heel, and resigned in disgust.

Thus the most comprehensive and formidable conspiracy for a buccaneering raid upon the beautiful and productive island of Cuba, of which any conception could have been entertained, involving thousands of men and millions of money, was suddenly defeated.

Who could have dreamed that Nebraska would thus rebound against Cuba, and demolish at a blow the darling measure of a high pressure administration? There was something of positive grandeur in the extensive Cuba plot thus incontinently knocked in the head.

Its ramifications extended from Washington to New York, to New Orleans, to Havana, to London, to Paris, to Ostend and Madrid.

While Soule was preparing the mine, the filibusters here, and their associate conspirators in Cuba, were preparing to run in upon the signal of the explosion.

That appointed signal was the expected rupture with Spain, and justice to Soule requires the admission that his ingenious and tremendous efforts to accomplish it were deserving of better success.

He did his duty to the coalition. It was the countermining of the Nebraska bill that blew him up.

After waiting upon Soule so long for nothing, the Cabinet organs may now return to the Africanization of Cuba.

There may be something in it, after all.

The disclosures which have successively followed from Ostend to Havana, are full of momentous suggestions.

The ascertained magnitude of this buccaneering organization in the United States, thus covertly leading the administration to the verge of a general war, is suggestive of the existence of the restless elements here of perpetual danger to the peace of the country while Cuba continues a possession of Spain.

The important arrests made by Gen. Concha indicate a complete system of correspondence between this country and the island, in spite of the stringent espionage of the Cuban authorities.

For some months past we have had, now and then, a vague rumor of a filibustering expedition on foot, but so vague and indefinite as to attract neither the public attention nor belief.

This shows the consummate skill with which the vast machinery of this secretly contrived foray has been managed, and suggests the very possible recurrence of another organization, and a more successful plot, at the first opportunity, under the superior discipline of the Southern Know Nothings.

We are informed from Havana that this last revolutionary enterprise is there considered as extinguished—that the British men-of-war, the Colossus and Boscawen, on guard are, accordingly, about to leave for England; but that, to make all sure, a French squadron is shortly expected in their place, to watch the approaches to the island.

But this is an unsafe and a very unsatisfactory state of things. The present despotic government of Cuba, as long as it continues, must continue to excite schemes of revolt among the creoles, and from a love of liberty, a spirit of daring adventure, and a spirit of cupidity, if you please, those creoles will continue to find hosts of sympathizers and conspirators in these States, able to command money, arms, ships, and all the munitions of war, and thousands of volunteers, ready to risk their lives for Cuba, as freely as for a fourth-of-July excursion.

For the sake of peace, for the maintenance of our amicable relations with the maritime Powers of Europe, for the sake of our friendly social and commercial intercourse with Cuba, and in behalf of that great fundamental law of public faith which lies at the basis of every honest government, it is incumbent upon our administration to think and act upon some plan for the permanent settlement of this vexed Cuban question.

Spain wants money. We have a surplus. Can England and France ever guarantee her the protection of Cuba against the Danes and Saxons from our shores? Even with that protection her island is insecure.

How are they to guard a sinuous seacoast of fourteen hundred miles against the swift clipper and steamer of the filibusters? They may slip in under cover of night from Yucatan, or Dominica, or Florida, and set the island in a blaze of revolt, in the teeth of a coast guard of a hundred armed vessels.

And let two of three thousand Americans thus effect a landing and excite a stirring insurrection, and our government will be powerless to arrest reinforcements to the extent of fifty thousand men, if required, to make the work complete.

A special diplomatic commission, then, to England, France and Spain in behalf of the cession of Cuba to the United States, might possibly be successful in persuading Spain to cede for a good round sum a piece of property which, sooner or later, she must otherwise surrender at less than cost.

But if she will not sell, there is still the alternative of an independent State government for the colony, leaving to the State the indemnification of Spain for the surrender of her jurisdiction.

While Cuba remains in her present anomalous half-and-half position to Spain, of an "imperium in imperio," she will continue a "bone of contention," and of danger to all parties concerned, till they close upon the bone, as Russia, England and France have closed upon Turkey.

In that event the allies will have a tougher job than Sebastopol, and poor Spain will have to foot the bill.

Marcy has been for two years studying the science of diplomacy, and especially in reference to this Cuba question.

Driven off by the Nebraska bill from the filibustering plan, he has not some other expedient of settlement to propose? Has he learned nothing except the policy of Micawber, of waiting for "something to turn up?"

Leaving Pierce, Cushing, and Dudley Mann out of the question, we commend to Marcy at this crisis, the trial of a special commission to England, France and Spain—England has a lien upon Spain and her assets, France an interest through the Empress, and so we must treat with all three.

Something has turned up. We must choose between a present settlement or a future par upon the Cuba question. What says Micawber?

THE BANK SUPERINTENDENT.—Ex-Governor Hunt arrived at the St. Nicholas Hotel a few days since, from Albany, where he spent some time in endeavoring to secure the re-appointment of Mr. St. John to the office of Bank Superintendent.

Now, let us see why the ex-Governor takes such an interest in this matter.

Previous to the election of Washington Hunt to the gubernatorial chair, he was President of the Lockport Trust and Banking Company.

Upon his election he resigned, but retained his interest as a stockholder in that institution.

For some time past that bank has been embarrassed, and it became highly important that no change should be made in the office of Superintendent, so that the favors now extended by the department could be continued.

Ex-Governor Hunt, therefore, starts post haste for Albany to save, if possible, his friend St. John from de-captitation.

The immediate cause of the embarrassments of the Lockport Trust and Banking Company was the withdrawal of funds belonging to the Banking Department on deposit in that institution, previous to the regular annual legislative examination of the affairs of the department.

Mr. St. John, not wishing to show such a deposit to the committee, withdrew it, much to the injury of the bank, which has since been repeatedly protested, and is now a fair subject for the Superintendent's care and guardianship.

He will, of course, let it take care of itself and cheat the public as much as it pleases.

Ex-Governor Hunt is one of the sureties of St. John, and it is, therefore, but natural that he should look out for his protégé, and for the bank in which he is a large stockholder.

The Lockport Trust and Banking Company would not long survive the retirement of St. John from the Banking Department.

It has for a long time been sustained by deposits of the public money held in trust by the Superintendent.

If Governor Clark suffers himself to be made a tool of by these political financiers, he is not the man we take him to be.

THE PENNSYLVANIA KNOW NOTHINGS AND THE SENATORIAL QUESTION.—ANOTHER SCREW LOOSE.—The election of a United States Senator from Pennsylvania has been postponed to the 27th instant.

In the meantime twenty-eight Know Nothings have, in a strong manifesto, (which we published yesterday,) repudiated Simon Cameron, the Know Nothing

cane nominee.

Among other objections against him, they say he is a Pierce administration man, a Nebraska bill man, an old trading party politician, and hence they repudiate him because the new American revolution calls for something fresher and better than Mr. Cameron.

The Philadelphia *Pennsylvanian*, the chief State organ of the administration, on the other hand, is fighting to defeat the election of Cameron, as against a political heretic of the blackest dye.

The administration disowns him and demands his defeat.

"A beautiful quarrel as it stands." We like the progressive ideas of the seceding Know Nothings; but the Cabinet organ makes discord of the music.

How would Buchanan do? The Liverpool *Journal* says, point blank, that he is a Know Nothing.

If there are no fresh and young men in Pennsylvania worthy of the United States Senate, the issue must lie between Buchanan and Cameron.

We await the result.

THE CRISIS IN ENGLAND.

The newspapers brought by the mail reader it pretty certain that Lord Palmerston will be the next Prime Minister of England, and possibly Earl Grey Minister of War.

But there are changes at hand in the British Isles of far greater import than this: changes in comparison with which the substitution of this for that lord, or the fall of this or that ministry are mere child's play.

From the accession of William and Mary to the present day, England has been ruled by a clique.

One hundred and seventy years has the great British oligarchy held supreme power, and trodden the people under foot.

Not without fits of impatience, dark symptoms of uprising on the part of the down-trodden.

William went to his grave without hearing of them. Anne served as shuttlecock to the aristocratic battledores till she, too, died knowing nothing of the people.

The two first Georges spent their swinish lives in unconsciousness that there was a people at all.

But the third George began to learn. Outspoken remonstrances, and fierce mobs, nay, stones rattling on windows and peers' carriages overset were his teachers.

It was necessary to compromise, and a few men of the people, much to their astonishment and to the delight of blockheads, were raised to power; these, of course, to lose their popular origin, to blend with the aristocracy and to betray the cause which had raised them.

Then more out-cries from the real people, and more quaking of lordly knees, and paling of lordly cheeks.

An impulse fierce, almost uncontrollable, is given to the movement by the French revolution.

This time no compromise is tried; but the gullible masses are hushed by a senseless declaration of war with France.

For twenty years men are too busy cutting French throats to think of English rights.

At the end of the slaughtering, the people have been bled so freely as to require repletion before they can fight with spirit at home.

With years their strength is strong again and the battle is renewed with the aristocracy.

All the prestige of England's military glory is on the side of the latter.

The Duke of Wellington belongs "to the order;" he will die for it.

Parliament is sold body and soul to the peers: members wipe the lords' boots.

But by this time there is a new power in England, the press. The Edinburgh *Review* and others as bold demand parliamentary reform; meaning, the overthrow of the nobility.

Ten years they fight; then the lords, fearing worse, sulkily succumb.

For ten years or so, the people are satisfied that cycle accomplished, up starts Dick Cobden, and asks that the lords be no longer allowed to tax the people to keep up the price of corn, and hence land, wherein lies their wealth.

Then another long fight, at polls, and meetings and Parliament and printing press.

But it ends like the former ones: the lords walk out of their house into the lobby so that free trade shall pass.

A pretty strong foundation here for the continuance of the war.

Accordingly Mr. Locke King or some other nobody moves for Parliamentary reform, meaning the old story; and Lord John Russell the model trimmer resists it for a while, then whips round and fathers the bill himself.

This time it is a serious matter, the margin left for monarchy being quite fractional, and universal suffrage close at hand.

At that critical moment the war with Russia—it was a war with France which saved the nobles in 1793—looms up, and for a time no one thinks any more of the war that is being waged at home.

The nobles are in an ecstasy.

How grievous their disappointment! The foreign war has hardly begun, and the poor fools have hardly settled themselves in the bastions of State, when the domestic war bursts out more desperate than ever.

Men see that the aristocracy have ruined the army, demoralized the State, disgraced the nation.

That they are fighting bitterly with each other—Lord Russell tripping Lord Aberdeen, Lord Derby quarrelling with Lord Newcastle, Lord Palmerston refusing to act with Lord Derby, all the lords together in a confused hand to hand scramble—ominous symptoms of portending ruin.

And with one voice the men of England pronounce their doom.

Sneeringly, bitterly the great London *Times* tells us that Parliament has adjourned to keep holy the festival of King Charles the Martyr; as though beheading had not been too good for the fellow, and as though every one in England did not know it.

The day has come when the final battle between the men and the noblemen of England must be fought, it were venturesome to assert.

Tricks have saved them before: dodges, false promises, lying pretenses; the armory of tricks, dodges and lies may save them again.

But the oftener these allies are used, the feebler they must become.

Every time the lords are driven to shirk the great issue, it strides nearer and nearer to their hearths, grows huger and huger in the lessening distance.

What if the people, sick of Lord Grey as of Lord Newcastle, sick of the whole family of lords and peers, should rise suddenly and knock them bodily on the head?

Stranger things have been seen in France. Not all the virtues of the Choueurs or the valor of the Robans could save their noble houses from the iron heel of democracy or their noble necks from the sharp edge of the guillotine.

Down they fell, not in the long lapse of time with the dust of a weary conflict bedragged with their ashes, but suddenly, in a day, in an hour, with a shock and a crash which shook the kingdom.

So terrible, so stunning was the fall that to this day they have not recovered, and

cane nominee.

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